

[W. McKenzie]

Black Earth Nettie M. Smith

March 31, 1936 story

Mr. McKenzie was born at Blue Mounds in 1854 and moved with his parents to Black Earth in about 1865. Flavia Camp, author of *The Hop Pickers* and other books, was Mr. McKenzie's Sunday School teacher in the historical congregational Church. He and boys of other denominations [each?] claimed his teacher the best looking. Flavia Camp was the mother of the noted writer, Dorothy Canfield Fisher, of Arlington, Vermont. An incident might be noted here that General Pershing knew Dorothy Canfield as a small child when she was called "bobbed-Haired Dorothy" Years passed and the next place he met her was in France during the World War. [McKenzie's?] have several personal letters from Dorothy Canfield Fisher regarding her mother whose early home was Black Earth. She lived in the "Old Manse" there. Her widowed mother (Dorothy's grandmother) had married [Ilder?] Allen, one of the first settlers in Black Earth. 1

The "Old Manse" mentioned before as the old Allen mansion is of the oldest, if not the very oldest structure in Black Earth. It is an old brick house that is truly a landmark. It is located in the village, block three and on the north side of the present highway. It is south of the new highway that is being constructed at this time. This highway is on a part of the old Indian trail, know as the National trail. It was in this house that the love letter of Flavia Camp's was found hidden beneath the caves in the attic. It was time and weather worn but deciphered and sent to the [daughter?]; Dorothy Canfield Fisher, who gratefully acknowledge it. 2